

**Elizabeth from Freeport**

**November 22, 2016**

*Dear Senator King,*

*I am writing to you, as my representative, to ask you for your help in supporting the Affordable Care Act and doing all you can to ensure the new Trump administration does not dismantle it. I am a Maine woman in my late 30s, who works 2 part-time jobs and also run my own design business. The ACA has allowed me career freedom to be an entrepreneur without sacrificing my health or the health of my husband. I lost my health insurance when I got laid off in 2012 from my full-time advertising job. At the time my husband ran his own landscaping business in Freeport and we were able to get on the Maine "Dirigo" insurance. As you know, "Dirigo" ended when the ACA started so we were transferred over to that insurance. And without it, I don't think my husband would be alive today. Because we were on Maine Community Health Options insurance that had an affordable deductible, after not feeling well for a while my husband went to the doctor and had a CT scan of his lungs done. It turned out he had a very rare form of an illness, even though he was only 38 at the time. Had we not had this insurance and such an affordable premium and deductible, he would have never gotten that CT scan done. This insurance saved his life and covered every expense we've had over the last 2 years with multiple stays at MidCoast Hospital and Maine Med, 2 surgeries, pick-lines, medications, therapies, the list goes on. There is no cure for what he has but he's doing better now, thanks to the ACA. And, even as the only income earner right now as he is still recovering, I can continue my career passion and not have to give it all up to find a job that offers insurance. I don't know what we will do if Trump dismantles this. As a middle-class woman, I cannot afford insurance without the subsidy (I'm still paying over \$600/mo for it, but the subsidy helps!).*

*I ask that you do all that you can to protect it and to protect hard-working Mainers like my husband and myself. We would have lost everything we worked so hard for without access to this insurance. This is a life or death issue for us. Thank you for helping us in any way you can.*

*Sincerely,*

*Elizabeth*